

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 OIC-02
IO-13 GSA-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 INRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9070
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN
SUBJECT: TIN -- FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT

REF: LA PAZ 10170

1. INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN PETER
LAI INFORMED USREP AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 29 HE PLANS TO
BRING THE QUESTION OF BOLIVIA'S FAILURE TO RATIFY THE
AGREEMENT BEFORE THE COUNCIL, AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 50
(B) OF THE ITA, ON JANUARY 7. THIS DATE STILL PROVISIONAL
SINCE LAI IS IN PROCESS OF CONSULTING LONDON REPS.
HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF EARLY SOUNDINGS, HE BELIEVES MOST
FEASIBLE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM WOULD BE TO
EXTEND THE SESSION OF THE COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY
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6 BY ONE DAY AND HANDLE MATTER UNDER THE AGENDA OF THAT
SESSION. HIS READING OF THE AGREEMENT AT THIS MOMENT
IS THAT A SEPARATE, SPECIAL SESSION IS NOT REQUIRED.

2. UNDER ARTICLE 50(B) LAI FEELS OPTIONS WHICH WILL BE
DISCUSSED ARE:

(A) MAINTAIN PROVISIONAL STATUS UNTIL JUNE 30, AT WHICH TIME IF BOLIVIA HAS NOT RATIFIED RENEGOTIATIONS CAN BE BEGUN.

(B) INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE FIFTH ITA COULD COME INTO FORCE WITHOUT BOLIVIAN PARTICIPATION.

3. LAI FEELS THAT ALTERNATIVE (B) SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE CHOSEN. FIRST, HE FEELS EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO BRING BOLIVIA IN. EVEN IF BOLIVIAN PARTICIPATION IS DISCOUNTED HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL AN AMENDMENT TO THE ITA COULD ENTER INTO FORCE JULY 1.

4. LAI WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COUNCIL PASS A RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF ALTERNATIVE (A). THIS RESOLUTION WOULD URGE BOLIVIA AND OTHERS TO RATIFY BUT IT WOULD ALSO SET A CUT-OFF DATE FOR SO DOING WELL BEFORE JUNE 30. IF BY THAT CUT-OFF DATE BOLIVIA HAS NOT RATIFIED, THE COUNCIL WOULD MEET AGAIN TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM AND BEGIN PLANNING FOR RENEGOTIATION. OBVIOUSLY, IF A CUT-OFF DATE PRIOR TO JUNE 30 WERE NOT DECIDED UPON, BOLIVIA WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO HOLD THE COUNCIL TO RANSOM UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. THIS COULD MEAN THE 5TH ITA'S DEMISE WITH NO PROVISION FOR RENEGOTIATION HAVING BEEN MADE.

SPIERS

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